Claims:

1. An elevator system comprising a hoistway; an elevator car (12) arranged to move vertically within the hoistway; a plurality of landings opening into said hoistway; and a pit (22) located below a lowermost landing (18), the elevator system further comprising an engineer interface (10) located at or near the lowermost landing arranged to generate a control signal for moving the elevator car to a predetermined parking position above the lowermost landing thereby allowing access to said pit.

2. An elevator system as claimed in claim 1 comprising locking means (24,26) for locking the car to a guide rail (16).

3. An elevator system as claimed in claim 2 wherein said locking means (24,26) are accessible from beneath the car (12).

4. An elevator system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said engineer interface comprises a key switch (10).

5. An elevator system as claimed in any preceding claim wherein said engineer interface (10) is located adjacent an elevator call button (6) at the lowermost landing (18).

6. An elevator system as claimed in any preceding claim comprising logical means for preventing movement of said car when in said parking position.

7. A method of operating an elevator system having a hoistway; an elevator car (12) arranged to move vertically within the hoistway; a plurality of landings opening into the hoistway and a pit (22) located at the bottom of the hoistway beneath a lowermost landing (18); the method comprising moving the elevator car to the lowermost landing, generating a control signal and moving said car up to a predetermined parking position above the lowermost landing in response to said control signal.

8. Software for operating an elevator system comprising logic adapted to receive a first control signal from an engineer interface (10); logic for generating a second control signal to an elevator machine to move said car (12) upwardly; logic for receiving a signal indicating that the elevator car has reached a predetermined parking position; and logic for generating a control signal to said elevator machine to halt further movement of the car until a further control signal is received from said interface.